

Carlisle School Committee
Minutes
April 16, 2008
Ruth C. Wilkins Library, Robbins Building
7:00 PM

Present – School Committee: Nicole Burkel, Chair; Wendell Sykes, Vice Chair; Dale Ryder; Chad Koski.

Present – School Administration: Marie Doyle, Superintendent; Heidi Zimmerman, Business Manager; Karen Slack, Director of Student Support Services; Claire Wilcox, Assistant to the Superintendent.

Nicole Burkel called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

Public Comment Period

Ms. Burkel asked the teachers who were present to introduce themselves.

Ms. Burkel asked if any members of the public had comments.

Cynthia Sorn asked for clarification about a meeting she thought was occurring on May 1st. There is a Building Committee meeting on that date but no School Committee meeting.

Review of minutes

Mr. Sykes made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 2, 2008. Ms. Ryder seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of approving the minutes except Mr. Fitzgerald who was not present at the meeting.

Ms. Burkel introduced the 3 candidates for School Committee openings, who were present at the meeting.

Communications/Correspondence

The following items were reviewed:

- Reminder from MASC regarding the Day on the Hill April 29th
- Letter from the MSBA inviting Carlisle to participate in the schematic design phase of the building project
- Letter from Lynne Carmel requesting that her daughter attend Carlisle Kindergarten next year
- Letters to Gio DiNicola and Liz Bishop for organizing the Internet Safety Program

- Copy of letter and press release regarding the new vision, mission, values emailed to staff and School Committee
- Letters to the members of the 3rd place team in the Massachusetts Scholastic Chess Championships: Matthew Li, Namita Chandra, Rholee Xu, and Steve Li
- Photo of Wendel Sykes, Patrice Hurley and the chess team
- Letter to School Council thanking them for a visit to discuss the new mission statement and inviting them to attend the June 4th School Committee meeting
- Thank you letter to Liz Perry for her math presentation at the last meeting
- Letters to Deana Saada-Smith and Megan Fitzharris congratulating them on their MICCA performances and awards
- Letter to Claire Wilcox recognizing her efforts in completing audits and EPIMS
- Summer curriculum letter

School Budget Public Hearing

Ms. Burkel opened the public hearing on the budget for fiscal 2009.

Ms. Zimmerman showed a series of slides and presented the budget for next year. She began by showing the new mission statement, vision statement, and core values. She reviewed the potential enrollment for next year. She then reviewed a breakdown of the budget by various budget categories. She discussed the total funding for each category. Next she discussed the reductions in the budget compared with the current year and the impact of the reductions.

Ms. Zimmerman summarized the proposed fees for fiscal year 2009. She then listed the warrant articles related to the school, of which there are four. Ms. Ryder asked what the band and chorus fees would cover. Ms. Zimmerman stated that this would cover the stipends for evening rehearsals and some sheet music for MICCA.

Mr. Koski stated that there should not be a family cap on the band and chorus fees because there are no caps on other student activity fees.

Louis Salemy asked for clarification regarding the level service vs. the level funded budget.

Cynthia Sorn asked if families were to choose not to pay the fee whether the student would still be able to participate in MICCA.

Mr. Krapf asked if there might be a better way to account for circuit breaker fees. He also asked for details regarding the major budget drivers of the budget.

Ms. Storrs asked what the decision point would be regarding the size of the kindergarten classes and the faculty children who may attend. Ms. Doyle stated that she is very much in favor of having faculty children attend CPS.

Student Recognition – Scholastic Writing Awards

Ms. Doyle recognized Marcella Pixley and 16 eighth grade students whose writing won awards in the scholastic awards writing program. All 16 students won regional gold medals, and Alison Richard's writing also won a silver medal on the national level. Caroline Guild received a national gold medal award. Alison and Caroline will be invited to an award ceremony at Carnegie Hall. Ms. Pixley stated that she is very proud of the students and noted that this is a very respected competition. This is an amazing, wonderful achievement, deserving of great praise.

Alison and Caroline read their works.

Ms. Doyle commended the students and presented them with certificates of congratulations. In addition to Caroline and Alison, the students honored were Brendan Fay, Marin Epstein, Amelia Cox, Bella Bjork, Tillie Barnett, Emma Frodigh, Ileana Wu, Dakota Woodworth, Sarah Williams, Teresa Ventura, Matthew Salemy, Jenny Robinson, Grete Langrind, and Aidan Konuk.

Ms. Burkel thanked the students and stated that members really appreciate their being at School Committee.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Marie Doyle reported on the following:

- Recent EDCO meetings
- CASE activities
- Law enforcement seminar regarding school violence and identifying potential perpetrators
- Invitation to Fifth District Day in Washington from Nikki Tsongas
- Christy Barbee's unsung heroine award
- Student/faculty basketball game
- Upcoming CSA budget presentation
- Musical events including MICCA and the Community Concert
- Strategic Planning joint meeting with School Council

Administrator Reports

Karen Slack represented the Administrative Team and reported on the following:

- Sixth grade outdoor education program
- April early release day and executive functioning discussions

Members'/Committee Reports

Mr. Fitzgerald reported that Diana Rigby has been selected as the new superintendent of both the regional and Concord districts. He praised Ms. Rigby and stated that the districts are very fortunate to have her. She is highly qualified and will be an excellent superintendent.

Mr. Fitzgerald also reported that Al Dentino had visited the School Committee meeting and had reviewed the Japanese band visit.

Ms. Burkel brought up an editorial that had been in the Globe regarding the school building process in which the Concord-Carlisle district was mentioned and Catherine Craven was quoted as stating that Concord-Carlisle would not discuss regionalization with Maynard and that this is a problem. Mr. Fitzgerald clarified that the regional school committee had discussed this and had determined that it would not be beneficial.

Mr. Salemy asked what would happen if Carlisle does not pass the override, and Mr. Fitzgerald explained the process.

Ms. Burkel stated that she, Mr. Flannery, and Ms. Zimmerman had met with the Recreation Commission regarding building usage by the RecCom. Discussions will continue at the beginning of May.

Ms. Burkel asked the chairs of the organizational review subcommittee for an update on the process. Mr. Koski, Ms. Zimmerman, Ms. Wilcox, and Mr. Sykes reported on the status of their subcommittees.

Information/Discussion Items

- A. **Fine Arts curriculum presentation.** Courtney Hadley, Rachel Levy, Megan Fitzharris, Angela Monke, and Deana Saada-Smith discussed the fine arts curriculum. Ms. Hadley began the presentation and noted that she and Ms. Levy had hung student artwork around the library. She showed members a website she had developed after attending a Carlisle College class. The website has information about art classes and the visiting artist programs for the past two years. She showed clips of the video projects developed with this year's visiting artist, Jeff Warmouth.

Rachel Levy discussed the elementary art program. She talked about the Gleason Library art show and showed photos of some of the work on display and of the opening reception. She gave additional details about the projects done with Jeff Warmouth and discussed a new African art unit, which is part of the first grade curriculum.

Megan Fitzharris played a dvd, which highlighted what she had learned in Africa and how she incorporated it into music classes. Students wrote poems and then played the poems on drums. She has developed a website that

traces the history of African music and shows how American music has evolved from this.

She commended the choir, particularly for their performance at the MA Music Educators Association conference. She noted that our choir has been recognized as one of the best in the state.

Angela Monke demonstrated her website, and she has included clips from the general music classes on the site. She played two examples of songs from the website.

Band Director Deana Saada-Smith reported on a jazz workshop currently going on for grades 5 – 8. Thirty-five students are involved in the 6-week workshop, including a few students who are not currently in the band. She also stated that she is recording all of the bands using the Garage Band program. She's using this as a tool for improvement, and she distributed sheets used by students in evaluating their work. She played some of the recordings she has made of each of the bands.

Ms. Burkel thanked the fine arts department for attending and updating members on their program. She noted how far the program has come and how well the faculty study trips to other countries have been incorporated into the curriculum.

- B. **Enrollment Update.** The packet mailed to members included an update on enrollment for the current year along with expected Kindergarten numbers for next year. Ms. Wilcox explained where the numbers are at this point.
- C. **Faculty Children at CPS next year.** Three faculty members have requested that their children be allowed to attend Kindergarten in Carlisle next year. These include Marcella Pixley, Lynne Carmel, and Heidi Zimmerman. Members discussed the current number of children expected to enroll in Kindergarten and the three sections proposed for next year. Mr. Fitzgerald asked about the number of current faculty children at school. There are six. It was decided that the committee would vote on this at the next meeting.
- D. **Review current year budget.** Ms. Zimmerman reviewed the current year budget spreadsheet included in the packet. She noted that utility savings would help fund new technology purchases at the end of the year. She stated that the energy efficient boilers have been excellent for energy savings. Ms. Burkel asked for details regarding energy cost projections.
- E. **Finalize Budget Mailer.** Ms. Zimmerman asked for any final comments on the budget mailer that will be sent out to all Carlisle households prior to Town Meeting May 5th. She distributed an updated color copy of the flyer.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he had some suggestions. He feels that the accomplishments listed should be fewer in number and should be very major things that were done. He also stated that the opening letter needs a great deal of work and that several areas are not clear. He will address this in more detail with Ms. Zimmerman. Ms. Ryder agreed with Mr. Fitzgerald's comments. Ms. Burkel noted that members have had the draft for over two weeks and asked that all have their comments in to Ms. Zimmerman by Friday.

Action Items

- A. Mr. Koski made a motion to accept with gratitude the donation of \$50,000 from the Carlisle Education Foundation for a mobile computer lab and 3 electronic whiteboards. Mr. Fitzgerald seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.**

Other Business

Ms. Burkel asked if members would like to have a transitional meeting between the new and old committee. Ms. Ryder stated that she would be very much in favor of this, and it would be especially important for new members to get background information on open issues. Ms. Burkel suggested that this meeting be held on May 14th at 7:00 pm.

Citizens' Comments

Ms. Sorn stated that she would be confused about the towns compared for MCAS results and budgets being different in the budget mailer.

Mr. Krapf asked how the MCAS result towns were selected for the mailer. Ms. Zimmerman explained the process of selecting towns.

Adjournment

There was no additional business, and **Mr. Fitzgerald made a motion to adjourn the meeting and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargain and litigation. The meeting will not return to open session. Ms. Ryder seconded the motion, and all members present voted in favor as follows: Mr. Fitzgerald, yes; Mr. Koski, yes; Ms. Burkel, yes; Ms. Ryder, yes; Mr. Sykes, yes.**

The public meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire M. Wilcox
Assistant to the Superintendent